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Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 /078 W
----------092302 050330Z /45
R 040848Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0154
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T TOKYO 14113

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 2
TAGS: CH, JA
SUBJECT: PFT

1. PRESS REPORTS AUGUST 4 INDICATE ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU DIRECTOR GENERAL NAKAE WILL RETURN TO TOKYO AUGUST 6 TO REPORT TO PRIME MINISTER AND FOREIGN MINISTER ON COURSE OF PFT TALKS. GOJ STATEMENTS TO PRESS IN RECENT DAYS HAVE SKETCHED PATTERN OF UPS AND DOWNS IN TALKS, WITH MOST RECENT CHARACTERIZATIONS BEING ON DOWN SIDE, LEAVING IMPRESSION THAT ISSUE REMAINS VERY MUCH IN DOUBT. WHILE EARLIER IN WEEK PRESS HAD SPECULATED ON BASIS OF GOVERN-MENT BACKGROUNDERS THAT COMPROMISE WAS SHAPING UP INVOLVING WORDING AND PLACEMENT OF SO-CALLED THIRD-COUNTRY CLAUSE, SONODA TOLD REPORTERS EVENING AUGUST 3 THAT THAT DAY'S SESSION HAD BEEN "MORE SEVERE" WITH NO COMPROMISE HAVING BEEN REACHED. HE REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT NEGOTIATIONS
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WOULD HAVE TO BE UPGRADED TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL NEXT WEEK IN ORDER TO SETTLE ISSUE.

2. CHINA DIVISION ACTING DIRECTOR SUGIYAMA GAVE EMBOFF MORE OPTIMISTIC READING AFTERNOON AUGUST 3, BEFORE RESULTS OF TENTH SESSION WERE KNOWN, INDICATING THAT PRESS REPORTS OF IMPENDING COMPROMISE ON THIRD-COUNTRY CLAUSE WERE

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ESSENTIALLY ACCURATE. SUGIYAMA SAID JAPANESE HAD FOUND HAN ANXIOUS TO RESOLVE ANTI-HEGEMONY ASPECT OF NEGOTIATIONS AT WORKING LEVEL, AND IMPLIED THAT, WHILE THIS COULD IN FACT BE DONE, IT PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE SO AS TO ALLOW SONODA TO MAKE FINAL BREAKTHROUGH. SUGIYAMA THOUGHT NAKAE SECRET

WOULD RETURN TO TOKYO OVER WEEKEND TO REPORT TO FUKUDA AND SONODA EARLY IN WEEK OF AUGUST 7, AT WHICH TIME DECISION WOULD BE MADE ON WHETHER TO SEND SONODA TO PEKING

3. COMMENT: PREPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE, INCLUDING INTELLIGENCE REPORTS, WOULD INDICATE THAT MORE PESSIMISTIC INTERPRETATIONS MAY BE CLOSEST TO MARK, WITH CHINESE PERHAPS HAVING BACKED OFF SLIGHTLY FROM FLEXIBILITY JAPANESE HAD DISCERNED EARLIER. NEVERTHELESS, IT REMAINS UNCLEAR WHETHER NAKAE RETURN ON 6TH (AND ONE REPORT HAS PRIME MINISTER SAYING TIME WAS NOT RIPE FOR HIM TO COME HOME) WOULD SIGNIFY IMPASSE HAD BEEN ENCOUNTERED REQUIRING MINISTERIAL-LEVEL NEGOTIATIONS TO BREACH OR, AS SUGIYAMA REMARKS WOULD SUGGEST, THAT AGREEMENT WAS VERY NEAR, WITH SONODA'S STATEMENTS TO PRESS AUGUST 3 BEING DESIGNED TO SET STAGE FOR PERSONAL DIPLOMATIC TRIUMPH. MANSFIELD

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